

MISCELLANEOUS READING.

[SELECT

TIME'S CHANGES.

I saw her once—so freshly fair,
That, like a blossom just unfolding,

And nature joyed to view its moulding
 Her smile, it haunts my memory yet,
 Her cheeks' fine hue divinely glowing
 Her rosebud mouth, her eyes of jet,
 Around on all their light bestowing,
 (Oh! who could look on such a form,
 So nobly true, so softly tender,
 And darkly dream that earthly storm
 Should dim such sweet, delicious splendour
 For in her men, and in her face,
 And in her young step's fairy lightning trace
 Naught could the raptured gazer trace
 But beauty's glow, and pleasure's bright
 I saw her twice—an altered charm,

Than girlhood's talisman less warm,
 Though yet of earthly sights the fairest
 Upon her lap she held a child,
 The very image of its mother,
 Which ever to her smiling smiled,
 They seemed to live but in each other,
 But matron cares, or lurking woe,
 Her thoughtless, sinless look had banish'd
 And from her cheek the roseate glow
 Of girlhood's balmy morn had vanish'd
 With her sweet smile, and her soft eye,
 Lay something softer, tender, deeper,
 As if in dreams some vision'd woe,
 Had broke the Elysium of the sleeper
 I saw her thrice—Heaven's dark decree,
 In widow's garments had array'd her,
 Yet beautiful she seemed to be,
 As e'en my reveries had portrayed her,
 The glances, the gleams, the smiles away,
 The sunshine, and the sparkling glitter
 Still, though I noted pale decay.
 The retrospect was scarcely bitter,
 For in their place, a calmness dwelt,
 Serene, subduing, soothing, holy,
 In feeling which, the bosom felt
 That every luxury must hold;
 A passiveness, as sunset streaming,
 A stillness, as of sunset great,

Till earth looks like a landscape dream
 A last time, and unmoved she lay,
 Beyond life's dim, uncertain river,
 A glorious world of fading day.
 From whence the spark had fled forever
 I gazed, my heart was like to burst,
 And as I thought of years departed,
 The years wherein I saw her first,
 When she, a girl, was tender-hearted,
 And, when I mused on later days,
 As moved she in her matron duty,
 A happy mother, in the blaze
 Of married love, and mother's beauty;
 I felt the chill, I turned aside,
 Bleak desolation's cold came o'er me,
 And Being seemed a troubled tide,
 Whose works in darkness swam before
 Turn me to yonder clime of cloudless light
 Where the redeemed their crowns of glory wear,
 Their palms of victory, their robes of white
 And know she lives with Christ for ever.
 Know that she is a jewel in His crown,
 Know that the songs of triumph louder swell
 Then let us lay each selfish murmur down
 Then, let the grieved heart answer, "I

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